

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00

NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OIC-02

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-----131625Z 102940 /45

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3604

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USNMR SHAPE BE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 03253

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: UNCLASSIFIED SUMMARY OF 1977 MINISTERIAL

GUIDANCE: DRC DISCUSSION MAY 12

REF: (A) USNATO 2931 (DTG 091832Z MAY 77)(NOTAL)

(B) USNATO 2565 (DTG 301700Z APR 77)(NOTAL)

(C) USNATO 2494 (DTG 281806Z APR 77)(NOTAL)

1. DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) MADE A NUMBER OF MINOR CHANGES TO THE DRAFT UNCLASSIFIED SUMMARY OF 1977 MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE (REF A) DURING ITS MAY 12 MEETING. THESE AMENDMENTS ARE DESCRIBED IN PARA 3.

2. OPENING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, CANADIAN REP (MAC NAB) STATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WILL, WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE, ACCEPT THE PRESENT DRAFT BUT CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE TEXT IS OVERLY NEGATIVE AND FAILS TO EMPHASIZE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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POSITIVE ASPECTS OF NATO ACTIVITIES. CANADA HAS TURNED THE CORNER ON DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AND CONTRIBUTION TO NATO AND PUBLICATION OF THE UNCLASSIFIED TEXT COULD PROVE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. US (BADER) AND BELGIAN (CROLLEN) REPS EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH CANADIAN POSITION, COMMENTING THAT THEIR AUTHORITIES ALSO HAD RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE DOCUMENT'S BALANCE. IN CONTRAST, DUTCH

REP (WYNAENDTS) STATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES PREFERRED THE EXPANDED TEXT (REF B), BUT COULD ACCEPT THE CURRENT TEXT IF NO FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES WERE MADE. IN LIGHT OF THESE COMMENTS, CHAIRMAN (ASYG MUMFORD) REMARKED THAT THE DRC MIGHT HAVE TO RETURN, AT THE LAST MINUTE, TO THE ORIGINAL SHORT SUMMARY TEXT IN PARAS 8-13 OF THE INITIAL DRAFT COMMUNIQUE (REF C).

3. DRC THEN REVIEWED THE CURRENT TEXT, AMENDING THE DRAFT AS FOLLOWS:

- A. PARA 2, LAST SENTENCE AMENDED TO READ: "THE CAPABILITIES OF THE SOVIET UNION TO EXERCISE SEAPOWER ALL AROUND THE WORLD HAVE BEEN ENHANCED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW AND IMPROVED SHIPS, SUBMARINES AND AIRCRAFT."
- B. PARA 4. FIRST WORD, "ALTHOUGH" DELETED AND "HOWEVER" INSERTED FOLLOWING "PROGRAMMERS" IN THE SECOND LINE.
- C. PARA 5. PHRASE "WARNING OF WAR" DELETED FROM THE SUBTITLE AND LAST THREE WORDS OF PARA 1 "READY FOR WAR", DELETED.
- D. PARA 6. LAST SENTENCE AMENDED TO READ: "ALL THE FORCES COMMITTED TO NATO SHOULD BE BROUGHT UP TO THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."
- E. PARA 11. CHANGED TO READ: "EFFICIENT APPLIED-CONFIDENTIAL

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CATION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY, WHILE NOT OFFERING ANY INEXPENSIVE SOLUTIONS, CAN PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES, IF APPLIED THROUGH CO-OPERATIVE AND TIMELY EFFORTS, FOR SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT TO THE DETERRENT AND DEFENCE CAPABILITIES OF THE ALLIANCE."

- F. PARA 12. AMENDED THE FIRST SENTENCE TO READ: "NATO RESOURCES CAN BE EMPLOYED TO BEST EFFECT IF, IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES, GREATER ACCOUNT IS TAKEN OF THE COLLECTIVE NEEDS OF THE ALLIANCE, RECOGNISING THAT THE PREROGATIVES OF SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENTS....
- G. PARA 14. IN THE LAST SENTENCE SUBSTITUTED THE PHRASE, "A BETTER BALANCE IN THE", FOR "AN INCREASE IN".
- H. PARA 16. DELETED ENTIRE PARA.
- I. PARA 17. ADDED THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE AT END

OF PARA: "THE EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES WILL DEPEND TO A LARGE EXTENT ON PROGRESS IN ALLIANCE COOPERATION."

- J. PARA 18. AMENDED THE LAST FOUR LINES TO READ:
"....MEASURES WHICH WILL ENHANCE READINESS AND REINFORCE-
MENT CAPABILITIES AND PROMOTE A COLLECTIVE APPROACH TO
EQUIPPING, SUPPORTING AND TRAINING ALLIANCE FORCES.

4. DRC WILL RETURN TO THIS TEXT ON MAY 17. BENNETT

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